

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated December 11, 2003 in which the Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103 and stated that claims 21-28 are allowed.

As indicated above, claims 1-20 have been cancelled without prejudice. Therefore, allowed claims 21-28 remain in the application.

Thus, it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

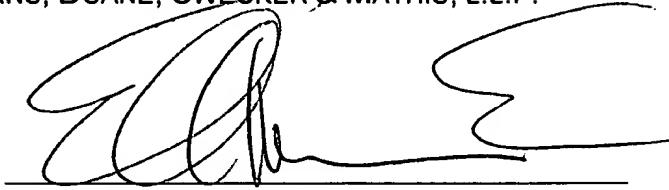
If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the current set shortened statutory period, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge
our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 10, 2004

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